Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Clinical Information System

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ABSTRACT

The Emtek System 2000 clinical information system (CIS) was implemented with a novel neonatal charting program on IBM's RISC System/6000 serving a seventy-four bed Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This patient-centered system provides access for all health care providers' (RN, MD, RT, CSW, etc) needs. Currently the CIS provides automated nursing, physician and respiratory progress notes and flowsheets. Physician's orders, medication records and laboratory values are scheduled for configuration later this year. Patient data is continuously entered by staff and can be downloaded into the CIS via interfaced monitors also. All data related to the current hospitalization is accessible via workstations at the bedside or other strategic locations in the NICU. Data for each patient can be viewed and entered at any CIS workstation. An analysis determining cost/time benefits of the CIS charting system versus paper charting was performed. Initial benefits include increased legibility and accuracy, immediate and simultaneous entry of patient data, more detailed data collection, increased ease of data retrieval and a reduction in redundant cross charting.